

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (canceled)

2. (currently amended) An isolated DNA ~~according to claim 1, wherein the DNA comprises~~ consisting of a nucleotide sequence ~~represented by~~ of nucleotide Nos. 1-11916 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claims 3-15 (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A DNA encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence wherein His residue at position 3037 is substituted by an amino acid other than His, and Ala residue at position 3038 is substituted by an amino acid other than Ala in the amino acid sequence ~~represented by~~ of SEQ ID NO:3.

Claims 17-31 (canceled)

32. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence ~~represented by~~ of SEQ ID NO:3.

Claim 33 (canceled)

34. (currently amended) A recombinant vector comprising the DNA according to claim 4 2 or 16.

35. (currently amended) A ~~transformant~~ host cell obtainable by introducing the DNA according to claim 4 2 or 16.

36. (currently amended) The ~~transformant~~ host cell according to claim 35 wherein the ~~host cell is~~ DNA is introduced into an avermectin-producing bacterial strain.

37. (currently amended) The ~~transformant~~ host cell according to claim 35 wherein the ~~host cell is~~ DNA is introduced into Streptomyces avermitilis K2038 (FERM BP-2775).

38. (currently amended) A process for producing the polypeptide according to ~~any one of claims 31-32~~ claim 32 and 47-48 comprising:

culturing a ~~transformant~~ transformed cell expressing the polypeptide in a medium to produce and accumulate the polypeptide in the culture, and
recovering the polypeptide from the culture.

Claims 39-44 (canceled)

45. (previously presented) The DNA according to claim 16 wherein the amino acid other than His is Tyr, and the amino acid other than Ala is Glu.

46. (previously presented) The DNA according to claim 45 wherein the DNA comprises a nucleotide sequence 5'-CATGCC-3' of nucleotide Nos. 9109-9114 of SEQ ID NO:1 is replaced by a nucleotide sequence 5'-TACGAG-3'.

47. (currently amended) A polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence wherein His residue at position 3037 is substituted by an amino acid other than His and Ala residue at position 3038 is substituted by an amino acid other than Ala in the amino acid sequence ~~represented by~~ of SEQ ID NO:3.

48. (previously presented) The polypeptide according to claim 47 wherein the amino acid other than His is Tyr and the amino acid other than Ala is Glu.

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Claims 49-56 (canceled)